

Editorial Notes.

In other columns will be found an article entitled "How to Get There," by Mr. J. C. Snell. This article is full of valuable suggestions, and should not only be read, but should be put into practice by every farmer in Canada.

From a series of carefully conducted experiments, the officers of the Massachusetts State Experimental Station have concluded that the old process linseed oil cake meal, at \$27 per ton, and the new process linseed meal, at \$26 per ton, when fed to dairy stock under corresponding circumstances, that equal weights of either may be fed without affecting the financial statement; that is, one is as profitable to feed as the other. In case the new process meal is used, the net cost of the milk is somewhat less, on account of the large amount of fertilizing element the meal contains, which increases the value of the manure obtained. This advantage is, in a majority of instances, to some extent, compensated for by a somewhat more liberal yield of milk obtained when the old process meal is fed. Each of these foods may justly claim a front rank among the concentrated foods to be fed dairy stock.

Many farmers believe anything is good enough to sire a calf that is "only to be killed for veal." This is a great mistake. A really good, well-bred calf, that has been well fed, will bring from \$10 to \$15, while scrub of the same age will only sell for \$5 to \$7, and go begging at that. In 1887 one of our staff fattened four calves for "the Easter Market." One of them was nearly a pure-bred Shorthorn; he was got by an imported Cruickshank bull, noted as the sire of many thick-fleshed animals; two of the others were high-grade Shorthorns, the dams being well-bred cows; their sire was a pure-bred Shorthorn, but rather leggy and thin-fleshed; the fourth was a native calf, his dam being a "Canadian," his sire of the same sort. The last cow was bought when in calf. All the calves were steers and were of nearly the same age, and were sold the same week. The first calf sold readily for \$22.50, and won sweepstakes at an Easter fat stock show; the next two were sold for \$17.50 each, and the other, the "scrub calf," sold for \$10 to the party who bought the last two. The last calf was somewhat difficult to sell, and was only taken at the above price, in order to secure the others. The cost of feeding each of the last three was about the same. The conclusion is, the better bred a beast is, when good breeding means good quality, the more profitable in every respect.

The able article on sheep breeding, written by Mr. John Jackson, one of Canada's oldest, most experienced, successful and noted breeders, deserves the careful study of every farmer in Canada. The article is able and very interesting, yet we differ in some points from the thoughts expressed by Mr. Jackson. He claims that heavy soils will give the best returns. We think as good, if not better, can be obtained from a flock pastured on fine rolling loams. Even light sand or rolling stony land can be made very profitable if turned into sheep pastures. Hundreds of acres of such land throughout Canada is specially adapted to sheep farming, and could be made more profitable if used for that purpose than by any other system of farming. It is generally admitted that it costs somewhat less to produce a pound of beef than a pound of mutton,

yet the labor is lighter and more pleasant, and the wool when sold and placed as an offset against the cost of feed, reduces the cost of production materially. The risk in sheep breeding is also much less than in horse or cattle breeding. Sowing and feeding off rape, also soiling and feeding indoors will considerably lessen the cost of production. Mr. Jackson advises all to select the breed which suits them best, and keep on using males of that breeding. This is sound doctrine, and should be followed in all the flocks, herds and studs of Canada. Mr. Jackson might have gone further and said, after determining what breed you will keep—determining what type is most profitable—always breed and select in such a way as to establish that type. This can only be done by using caution and judgment in selecting sires. Do not be content with a sire, simply because he has the qualities you desire to stamp on his offspring, but be sure his dams and sires, for generations, had the same qualities.

American Cattle in England.

The United States authorities have not enjoyed smooth sailing in their effort to capture equal privileges with Canada for their export bees in British ports. Tuberculosis has continued to seriously ravage herds in the east, while the northern outbreaks of Texas fever are very destructive. On the heels of these troubles came a bulletin from Dr. Paul Paguin, the celebrated State Veterinarian of Missouri, describing an outbreak of some disease pronouncing itself in sores of the mouth and feet. As far as he could learn, the symptoms corresponded with the dreaded "foot and mouth disease" of Europe, and his bulletin was headed accordingly. The publication naturally caused consternation at Washington and among the United States officials in England. Secretary Rusk ordered the bulletin to be suppressed, and a veterinary official from Washington was hurried off to the scene of the disorder. Secretary Rusk next cables to Britain that the malady is not foot and mouth disease, and is not contagious. Dr. Paguin is reported to concur in that view, which seems to have been very suddenly arrived at. The dispatch, however, contained no information as to the real nature of the malady. Dr. Paguin has been fiercely berated for his action in calling public attention to the matter as he did, by those who are trying to persuade the British authorities that the United States has a clean health bill. A recent cable from England announces that the Central Chamber of Agriculture has adopted a resolution declaring that in view of the pleuropneumonia in New Jersey, it is imperative that the regulations regarding the importation of American cattle be maintained. Readers of the ADVOCATE will be pleased to learn that Canadian bees still hold the vantage ground.

The First Silo.

As a practical solution of the ensilage question in all its bearings can only be reached by actual experiment, Mr. Wm. P. Smith, of Portage la Prairie, decided to erect a silo and ensile his enormous crop of corn. A silo was accordingly built—the first in Manitoba, so far as our knowledge goes—and filled with corn, and is now awaiting the advent of the proper season for opening and feeding. Mr. Smith's silo is eighteen feet by twenty, and fifteen feet high. This silo was filled gradually, as circumstances would admit, and from the position of the silo

and the manner in which the work was conducted, there seems to be no reason why it should not prove a success. Three sides of the silo are buildings already standing, and the fourth is well protected by boards, tar paper and sawdust. Mr. Smith does not purpose depending on this alone, however, to prevent the ensilage from freezing, but will have an opening from the stable, where the cattle are kept, into the top of it, thus allowing the warm air from the stables to pass in and prevent freezing. This looks feasible, and whether success attends the effort or not, Mr. Smith has certainly exhibited a good deal of common sense in the enterprise throughout, in departing from the methods practised elsewhere, so far as the difference in climatic conditions would be supposed to require, and it is to be hoped that success may crown his efforts.

Churning Temperature.

I see by the reports of the meetings held by Prof. Robertson, that he recommends a higher temperature for churning in winter than in summer. Is this because the milk actually requires to be warmer, or is it to counteract the colder air and prevent the milk from sinking below the minimum temperature?

SUBSCRIBER, Manitou.

Professor Robertson, doubtless, meant that it was absolutely necessary to have the cream itself at a higher temperature for churning in winter than in summer. Many people know the proper temperature for churning, but few realize why a certain temperature is necessary. The butter fat in cream is in minute particles, and the action of churning brings them in contact with each other, and if the proper temperature is maintained, these particles adhere, and the term gathering is applied. If, however, the temperature is too low, the particles of fat are too hard to adhere, and the butter "will not come." The reason of this difference in the condition of the cream is that in summer the fat globules are softer at the same temperature than in winter. Butter fat is composed of stearine and oleine, the former being the harder part, and the latter the softer, or oily portion. In winter, if cows are fed on hay, straw and grain, or all combined, stearine will be found in much greater proportion than in summer; hence the necessity for a higher temperature in churning.

Cheshire Hogs.

A subscriber asks, Do you know anything about Cheshire hogs?

We have never seen anything of this race. With one exception, none of the modern works on agriculture or live stock mention this breed. On page 57 of his work on the pig, Joseph Harris writes this of this breed:—

"We have so-called 'Cheshire' pigs in America, but there is no such breed raised or known in Cheshire, and has not been for twenty years or more. Culley, in his work entitled 'Observations on Live Stock,' published in 1807, gives a well authenticated account of a Cheshire pig which measured from the nose to the end of the tail 9 ft. 8 in., and in height 4 ft. 5½ in.; when alive it weighed 1,410 lbs., and dressed 1,215 lbs.; the age is not given. It was probably as fat as it could be made, and yet it only dressed 80½ per cent. of its live weight. The breed, if we may call it a breed, was evidently very large and coarse. It is described as remarkably long, standing very high on long, bony legs, head large, ears long and hanging, back much curved and narrow, sides flat and deep, color white, blue and white, or black and white. This breed has become extinct." If any of our readers can throw any more light on this question we would be glad to hear from em.